

(c) whether the Prime Minister has accepted the approach and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps expected to be taken for the protection of such farmers from committing suicide and when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) On the 29th September, 2006 the Government of India approved a rehabilitation package for the farmers in 31 suicide prone districts of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra involving total amount of Rs. 1697.69 crores which *inter-alia*, includes Rs. 2718.25 crores for waiver of interest on overdue agriculture loans as on 1st July, 2006. The state-wise details of interest waiver are as under:

Sl.No.	State	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1436.44 crore
2.	Karnataka	209.81 crore
3.	Kerala	360.00 crore
4.	Maharashtra	712.00 crore
TOTAL:		2718.25 crore

The rehabilitation package will be implemented over a period of 3 years and includes both immediate and medium term measures. The rehabilitation package aims at establishing a sustainable and viable farming and livelihood support system through debt relief to farmers, improved supply institutional credit, crop centric approach to agriculture, assured irrigation facilities, watershed management, better extension and farming support services, and subsidiary income opportunities through horticulture, livestock, dairying, fisheries, etc.

Financial assistance for promotion and development of horticulture

267. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance granted to the States for promotion and development of horticulture during the last three years;

(b) whether funds allocated to the States have been under utilized; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) A statement showing details of financial assistance given for promotion and development of horticulture in the states during the last three years is annexed (See below). Funds provided in the budget for promotion and development of horticulture were fully utilized by releasing to the various implementing agencies.

Statement

Details of financial assistance given for promotion and development of horticulture in the states

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of scheme	Financial Assistance		
		2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1	National Horticulture Board including investment capital subsidy scheme	5000.00	7000.00	7000.00
2	Coconut Development Board including Technology Mission on Coconut	2000.00	2000.00	3500.00
3	Hilly/Tribal Area Development	900.00	1600.00	0.00*
4	Human Resource Development	44.46	77.85	0.00*
5	Technology Mission on Horticulture for North Eastern States including Sikkim, J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal	11839.00	17672.27	18739.21
6	National Horticulture Mission	-	-	63000.00
7	Micro Irrigation	-	-	28046.14
TOTAL:		19783.46	28350.12	120285.35

* These schemes have been subsumed in National Horticulture Mission during 2005-06.